

## **Possible Questions at Press Conference:**

- **What do you think about the House provisions which were added to UpGrade (i.e. required homework assignments, implement program to restrict kids from listening to “trashy music”)?**

UpGrade is about liberating our best schools from state bureaucracy. Those House amendments are about micro-managing our schools from Jackson. I think local communities should make those decisions about their schools and not the House, the Senate or me.

- **You said yesterday the state's revenue has grown more in the past 90 days than during any other three-month period in Mississippi's history. Is that true?**

As usual, Mississippi taxpayers are doing their job. Tax revenue is on a blistering pace. It has certainly grown more than during any three month period in recent Mississippi history. We are going to have more revenue than we expected, and I think a portion of that new revenue should go to education.

- **What is your reaction to a survey that indicates that possibly half the Senate supports a cigarette tax hike?**

I think the survey just confirms that there is not enough tax hike sentiment in the Senate to actually pass one.

- **What is your reaction to the Mississippi Economic Council passing a resolution yesterday calling for MAEP to be “fully funded?”**

I appreciate their involvement as always. They also said we should “reduce cost by eliminating waste, duplication and inefficiencies.” And I will also note that they did not mention raising taxes.

- **Doesn't the fact that you gave talking points to senators at a meeting at the Mansion more proof that you are controlling the Senate?**

Groups have been holding countless press conferences at the Capitol distributing flyers making accusations about those who are against raising taxes. The Senate and I were their targets, and we responded to their accusations with our arguments. I don't think my position is a secret. We are giving our arguments to House members who are against raising taxes later today. The House leadership has distributed a sheet to their members and others estimating huge cuts and 6,000 layoffs -- I don't agree, but I don't mind them passing it out to anybody.